

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Applicants hereby present the claims, their status in the application, and amendments thereto as indicated:

1. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A folding ramp for vehicle access, the ramp comprising:

a first and a second rectangular frame, the two frames being affixed to each other by a first hinge and one of the two rectangular frames being affixed to a door frame of the vehicle by a second hinge, wherein the rectangular frames pivot between a folded position within the door frame and a deployed position, wherein each of the first and second rectangular frames include:

a first fixed section disposed distal from the first hinge; and

a moving section movable between an extracted position, in which the first fixed section and the moving section are adjacently disposed to form a ramp surface, and a withdrawn position overlying the first fixed section and distal from the first hinge, wherein the moving section shifts into the withdrawn position due to gravity when the rectangular frames are moved into the folded position;

a cable brake affixed to the door frame;

a suspension cable operatively extending from the cable brake to the first and second rectangular frames near the first hinge, wherein the suspension cable is configured to draw the movable section of each rectangular frame into the extracted position when the rectangular frames are moved into the deployed position;

a locking mechanism affixed to the door frame and configured to secure the rectangular frames in the folded position; and

means for controlling deployment of the rectangular frames.

8. (Previously Presented) The folding ramp of claim 7, wherein each of the first and second rectangular frames further includes guides in longitudinal edge beams, and the moving section of each rectangular frame includes runners

positioned to interact with the guides to enable the moving section to move between the extracted position and the withdrawn position.

9. (Previously Presented) The folding ramp of claim 8, wherein each guide comprises a longitudinal groove disposed in the respective longitudinal edge beam, each groove including at least one transverse displacement section which interacts with the respective runner to place the moving section coplanar with the first fixed section when the moving section is in the extracted position.

10. (Previously Presented) The folding ramp of claim 7, wherein each of the first and second rectangular frames further include a second fixed section disposed adjacent to the first hinge, and when in the extracted position, the moving section is disposed between and coplanar with the first and second fixed sections.

11. (Previously Presented) The folding ramp of claim 7, wherein the means for controlling deployment of the rectangular frames comprises a pneumatic or hydraulic spring with adjustable tension affixed between the door frame and one of the first and second rectangular frames.

12. (Previously Presented) The folding ramp of claim 7, wherein the locking mechanism is configured to release the rectangular frames from the folded position when a door of the vehicle nears a maximum open position.

13. (Currently Amended) The folding ramp of claim 13 12, the locking mechanism comprising:

a latch biased toward a locked position which secures the rectangular frames in the folded position;

a push-rod and a lever configured to actuate the latch and release the rectangular frames from the folded position, wherein the push-rod and lever are biased against actuating the latch; and

a cable connecting the lever to the door of the vehicle, wherein when the door nears the maximum open position, the door actuates the push-rod and the lever to actuate the latch.